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COUNTY SUPERVISORS CONFER

Detailed instructions were given to 30 county corn-borer supervisors from Michigan and northwestern Ohio who met at Toledo April 14 to learn more about their duties and responsibilities in the clean-up campaign.

"All corn-crop remnants throughout the infested area in the five States must be cleaned up wherever it is humanly possible to do so," said L. H. Worthley, in charge of the field organization of the control campaign. The supervisors were urged to use as much common sense as possible in their work but were assured that "All corn stubble above 2 inches in height, regardless of the field conditions in which it may be found, must be cleaned up by May 1, in order to meet the government regulations." The administrator for the district, E. G. Brewer, outlined the rules and regulations under which government employees must work.

The following supervisors attended this conference: John F. Hill, Bay and Saginaw Counties; V. B. Stout, Branch County; G. W. Ray, Calhoun County; E. W. Richards, Genesee County; Loren Eagle, Hillsdale County; Thomas Hurd, Huron County; Rina Dell, Ingham County; R. Z. Allen, Jackson County; H. J. Wing, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties; Henry D. Phillips, Lenawee County; Harold Knight, Macomb County; J. A. Navarre, Monroe County; B. A. Holden, Oakland County; John Ritchie, Sanilac County; Arthur Hanchett, Shiawassee County; Charles Martin, St. Clair; Luman A. Seamans, Wayne County, in Michigan. Walter D. Bright, Allen and Putnam Counties; Edward J. Knappenberger, Crawford and Morrow Counties; Jay C. Burr, Fulton County; A. T. Evans, Hardin and Hancock; George E. Kryder, Henry County; Foster McCord, Lucas County; Foster L. Finkle, Marion and Wyandot Counties; Charles F. Biehler, Ottawa

Address communications to Information Division, Corn-Borer Control, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

County; Henry Poorman, Paulding and Van Wert Counties; O. E. Secrist, Sandusky County; I. P. Rule, Seneca County; Ray W. LeGalley, Wood County; Charles E. Faulhaber, Williams County; Fred Gares, Defiance County, in Ohio.

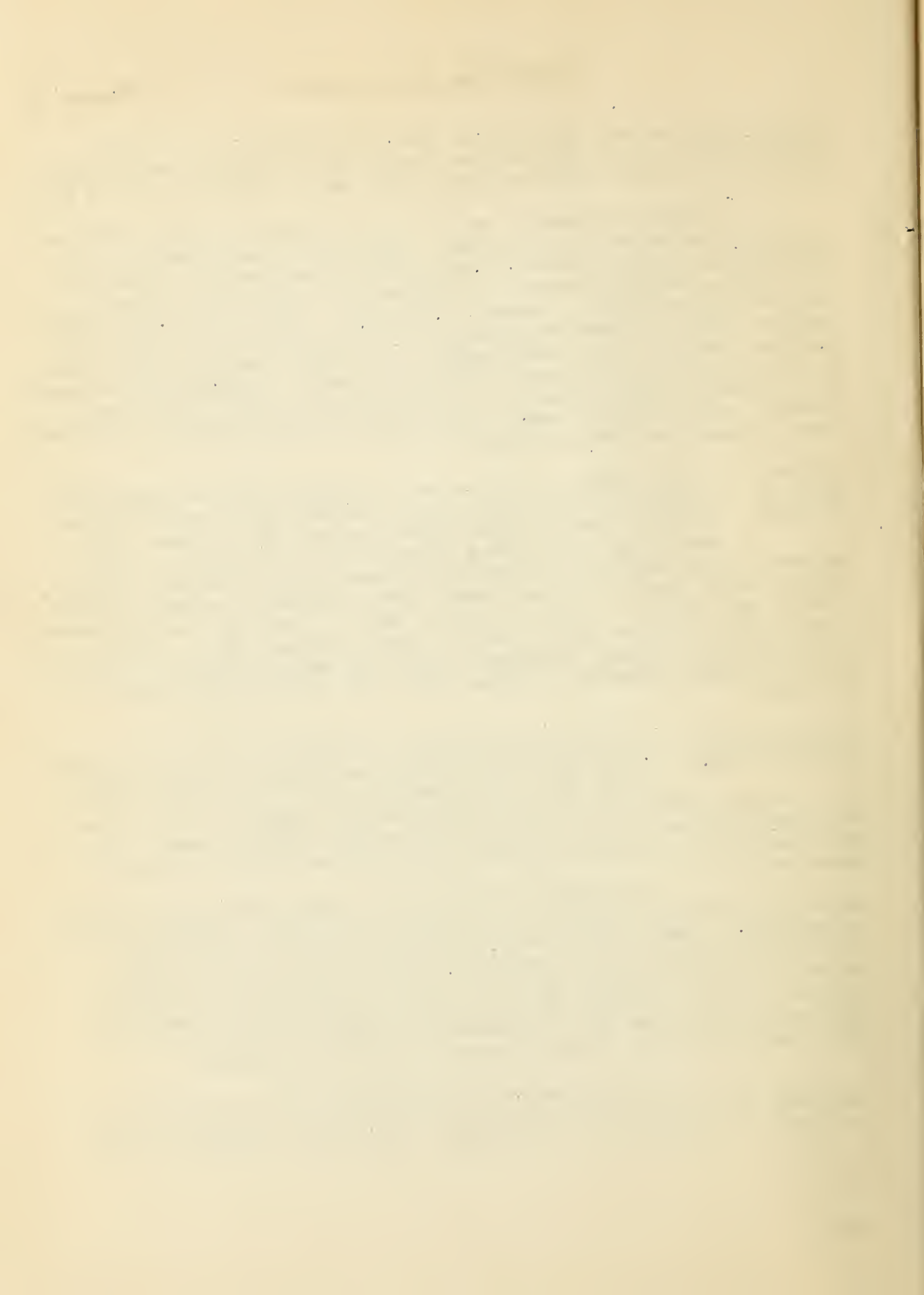
A similar conference was held in Cleveland April 16 for the supervisors from eastern Ohio counties. This meeting was attended by the following supervisors: James M. Fluke, Ashland and Richland Counties; S. B. Noxon, Ashtabula County; W. T. Atherton, Carroll and Jefferson Counties; Robert Limpert, Cuyahoga County; E. F. DeYo, Erie County; Walter Spencer, Geauga and Lake Counties; W. J. Smith, Harrison and Jefferson Counties; Fred W. Knoll, Huron County; E. C. Cotton, Lorain County; Harvey O. Brown, Mahoning and Columbiana Counties; Ross T. Chrisman, Medina County; D. K. Wileman, Portage County; A. L. Neale, Summit County; Tom A. Fell, Trumbull County; Allen C. Baker, Tuscarawas and Stark Counties; Corwin Swan, Wayne, Holmes, and Knox Counties.

EQUIPMENT Stubble beaters with tractors to operate them are being moved
MOVED TO rapidly into the field. E. G. Brewer, administrative officer
COUNTIES in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, reports 444 of these units consisting of a stubble beater and tractor already in the counties. This equipment has been distributed in the following counties: Fulton, Henry, Wyandot, Marion, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams, Wood, Allen, Putnam, Paulding, Van Wert, Hancock, Defiance, Monroe, Crawford, Erie, Lorain, Cuyahoga, Huron, Medina, Summit, Portage, Wayne, Ashland, Richland, Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas, Lake, and Geauga Counties, in Ohio, and Monroe, Lenawee, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Wayne, and Washtenaw Counties, in Michigan.

TRIP TO CANADA The old axiom, "Seeing is believing," was again proved
CONVINCES FARMERS true when 18 representative farmers of Hardin County, Ohio, who had not been convinced that the corn borer is a dangerous pest or that control measures were necessary, went to see for themselves the infested area in Essex County, Ontario, Canada, and came back to turn the tide of public opinion in their county in favor of borer control.

They found a county with a normal corn crop of 100,000 acres which had been diminished to 30,000 acres and that severely damaged by the borer. They learned that in 1922 the infestation was slight, in 1924 it was noticeable over the entire county, and in 1926 the borers caused an almost total loss of the corn crop. They found no cornstalks which had not been infested with the borer. They had an opportunity to discuss the corn borer with the farmers and officials and to carry back home visible evidences of the destruction caused by the borer.

A mass meeting to remonstrate against the control campaign was in session when they returned. Several of the farmers decided to attend this meeting, tell their story, and show the evidence they had



collected. After hearing the account, the chairman entertained a motion to discontinue any organized effort to combat the enforcement act and to "turn about face" and comply with the regulations. The motion passed unanimously, and the attorney they had employed was dismissed.

**WHERE BURNERS
WILL BE USED** The burning apparatus which the government will use in clean-up work is the most effective but at the same time the most costly method of destroying the borer. It will be used in fields with an especially heavy infestation or in fields where, because of low wet areas or other physical features, it would be difficult to plow or otherwise handle. It is the quickest way of destroying the borer and therefore will also be used under any condition where speed is an important factor. The burning carriages capable of generating a heat of 1400° F. are pulled across the fields, consuming all stalks and other corn refuse which might harbor borers.

**TO STOP
THE BORER** In the campaign against the corn borer, the various offices and bureaus in the Department of Agriculture outside the regular corn-borer control organization have shown a splendid spirit of cooperation. The regular personnel of these offices not included in the scope of the campaign have laid aside their routine work and rushed campaign material through with the greatest expedition. Offices which have contributed materially to the launching of the campaign are the Office of Personnel and Business Administration, Office of Information, Extension Service, division of agricultural engineering of the Bureau of Public Roads, Office of the Solicitor, Federal Horticultural Board, and the Bureau of Entomology.

The State department of agriculture, the State extension service of the State agricultural college in each of the five States in the control area have also given the campaign their hearty support and cooperation. Much of this work has been done with the regular State funds and personnel.

**CUT SERVICE
INAUGURATED** Cuts showing corn-borer control methods being used by individual farmers have been sent to the local newspapers in the clean-up area through arrangement with the State representatives of the information service of the corn-borer control organization. Five 4-column cuts and four 2-column cuts have been sent to each paper. Dailies are receiving a similar service in matrices. These cuts include photographs taken by G.W. Ackerman, extension photographer, U.S.D.A. during the second week in April in Ohio and Michigan. The illustrations show the raking and burning of cornstalks, the stubble pulverizer in action, plowing under corn stubble, and the damage done to the cornstalks and ears by borers.

**PARASITES
FOR THE BORER** Strenuous efforts are being made to establish parasites in the Lake Erie region and other American areas infested by the corn borer, says W. H. Larrimer, in administrative charge of the corn-borer campaign. Years must elapse however before any important effect can be expected, and it is not certain that the parasites will develop into effective aids in controlling the corn borer.

Before these parasites were imported a careful study was made of the parasites preying upon the borer in Europe. Only those which seemed to be checking the ravages of the borer were selected. Every precaution was taken to eliminate those which by any chance might become harmful to plant growth.

CORN IN GARDENS Clean-up regulations will be enforced the same in village corn patches as in the larger fields. In small gardens, the cornstalks can be cut at the surface with a sharp hoe or knife. The stalks then must be carefully raked up and completely burned. This corn material **MUST NOT BE SENT TO THE DUMP** but should be **ENTIRELY BURNED** to kill all borers lodged in the stalks and ears. Any stubble left in the garden can be plowed or spaded under cleanly.

HIGH SCHOOLS STUDY BORER A special study of the European corn borer is being made by thousands of young people in the 115 vocational high schools in Michigan this week, April 18-24. The history, habits, and control of the borer will be studied in connection with the present clean-up campaign.

CAMPAIGN NEWS Routine news information received in reports from county supervisors and inspectors is to be handled by Frances E. Faulconer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service, who left Saturday for the Toledo office. Miss Faulconer will cover the further appointments of supervisors, movement of equipment into the counties, progress of the campaign in the counties, and completion of the clean-up work as soon as it is finished. She will keep in touch with the State editors in the five campaign States and with the informational headquarters in Washington.

PROGRESS IN PENNSYLVANIA E. H. Rohrbeck, in charge of informational work in Pennsylvania, on a field trip through the campaign counties last week wrote, "Today I was in Crawford County and was highly pleased with the way the farmers are cleaning up. It looks good. The home gardeners as well as farmers have caught the idea and the spirit of the clean-up. Apparently Pennsylvania will be unsafe for the corn borer if our farmers can make it so."

A MICHIGAN FARMER ASKS "If the borer is plowed under is there any possibility of its remaining alive and being ready to start work again when plowed up next spring?"

"None at all. The borer does not stay in the buried refuse but crawls to the surface where, if no refuge is found, it perishes."

"Can the farmer operate government machinery himself on his land?"

"No. All government machines will be operated by government operators."

"Is the farmer paid for clean-up in barnyard, pigpen, feed lot, etc.?"

"If the clean-up passes inspection, the farmer is paid for all clean-up work on his farm, in the field, feed lot, or barnyard, above his normal operations on the basis of the 1926 corn acreage."

"How much will it cost per acre if the farmer leaves the clean-up to the government?"

"The cost will be based on the expense or such part of the expense incurred by the government in cleaning up the land as determined by the State Regulatory laws."

"When the farmer has made a practice of cleaning his farmyard and barn, hauling refuse to fields, and plowing land, will he be paid for it this year?"

"The farmer will be paid for all extra labor over and above that usually done before the advent of the borer, not exceeding \$2 per acre."

THE BORER'S LAMENT. The viewpoint of the borer in this control campaign has been ably given by H. W. Warner in "The Lament of Pyrausta Nubilalis." The high-sounding name is the scientific way of addressing the European corn borer. Because of lack of space, the entire poem could not be printed.

Aye yust come to Junited State
About ten yahr or nine;
Some faller call it land of free,
By Jimminy - it is fine.

I rais' a da beeg a familee,
I goev' a hecm zca maize;
He goet so beeg he no stay home,
He travel a long a ways.

One d'y a bloody 'eathen comes
with glawsses trimmed with 'orn
Says 'o "You worm, we're h'after you,
For raisin' 'ell with corn."

Mon Dieu! he try to poison me,
NO! NO! I no am dumb!
He try to burn and plow me deep
And treat me like big bum.

Mein Gott! but t'ings iss getting hot
Around der farmers' collars,
Worm Cal vill sign a check dot says,
"Goot for ten million tollars!"

But vass iss los? Ees Onkle Sam
Find out he no like me?
Aye tank somebody lied vomm he
Calla dees da land a da free.

FIGHTING THE CORN BORER

Farmers of Michigan as well as elsewhere are giving becoming heed to the fight against the corn borer. The fight is not all a matter of special plowing. The success of the fight resides quite as much in mental attitude as in any specific act that is done.

There are five places about the State designated where instruction may be had looking toward eradication of the corn-borer pest. Farmers of Ingham are asked to come to flushing, near Flint. Quite a way to go, and yet it is expected that a good delegation will turn out from this county. A day or two ago, at the little town of Milan, over in Washtenaw County, 2,500 farmers were present to witness the methods necessary to fight the corn borer. Would that have been true 25 or 20 years ago? Probably not. A marked change in the way of farmer thinking has come about. He is willing to pay heed to the specialist in his line.

The method of fighting the corn borer consists essentially in plowing the corn stubble in deeply, more deeply than ordinary plowing can effect. Another way is to finely pulverize the corn stubble that the home wherein the corn borer thrives may be destroyed. The deep plowing is the essential of the method. Would it have been possible to get 2,500 farmers together 25 years ago to see a "city feller" plow? Assuredly not; but now it can be done.

The experts in special matters like pest eradications are not "city fellers" though they may live in or near towns--they are essentially specialists in agriculture. The farmer like every other business man knows that this is the day of the specialist. The specialist in some branch of agriculture is the one whom the farmer, himself, in effect, has set aside to do a special work he has not time nor facilities to do himself.

There is no cause, of course, to argue in behalf of the farm specialist any more than any other specialist, but it is encouraging, worthy of note, in that the mental attitude of the farmers is so markedly different from that of a quarter a century ago. Now special methods are taken as a matter of course, once they were scoffed at.

If the special methods against the corn borer are carried out, corn planting will be able to go forward in Michigan this season as usual.

Editorial in the Lansing State Journal, April 1, 1927.

